

# BRAMM FIXER LICENCE TEST DAY



Since BRAMM was launched there has always been a lot of “misinformation” circulating within the memorial masonry industry concerning exactly what goes on during a BRAMM Fixer Licence Test Day. As with any scheme which requires some effort and input from its candidates to achieve a recognised standard BRAMM has had its share of critics. The actual logic and reasoning behind some of the criticism tends to escape those actually familiar with the scheme as many of the objections are not based on fact but, at best, on inaccurate rumour and, at worst, just plain ignorance.

So, let’s have a look at exactly what goes on! The basic rationale behind a BFL Test Day is that a candidate needs to prove himself competent to fit a memorial in a safe and proper manner following the National Association of Memorial Masons Code of Working Practice. In addition, this demonstration of practical competence is underpinned by a forty question multi-choice written test paper based on knowledge of the NAMM CoWP and general common sense memorial fixing issues. It’s as simple as that.

The practical test is designed to reveal competence and skill in a number of recognised core skills that an experienced fixer should have no problem in demonstrating. These include:

1. Use of a string line to ensure alignment.
2. Marking up the ground and troughing out to receive a foundation slab.
3. Ramming the ground to help to ensure long term stability.
4. Use of sharp sand as a fine levelling agent.
5. Aligning and levelling a foundation slab.
6. Knowledge of the chosen NAMM accredited ground anchor and competence in its correct use.
7. Knowledge and competence in using the chosen fixing method.
8. Safe erection of a standard headstone & base set.
9. Accuracy in plumb, levels and measurements.
10. Satisfactorily cleaning off to a professional standard.
11. Correct selection and use of tools and equipment.
12. Accurately marking up and coring or drilling a hole in a foundation slab to follow the chosen NAMM accredited ground anchor manufacturer’s instructions.

In addition to the above twelve core skills the practical assessment will also reveal the candidate’s ability in other areas of memorial fixing practice such as giving a visual risk assessment, knowledge of appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), protecting the working area with cones or tape, leaving the work area in a tidy state, working within a set time frame, etc.



In conclusion, you will see that a BFL Test Day is nothing to be afraid of. It is not rocket science. It is an assessment of practical skills and related job knowledge which is all in a day’s work to most competent memorial fixers. This is underpinned by the fact that more and more fixers are achieving a BFL as the BRAMM scheme is taken up by more and more Burial Authorities.

The pictures on this page show various aspects of a typical BFL Test Day where competence is being assessed in job knowledge and many of the recognised core skills.

All concerned with BRAMM assessments must be ever mindful that a BRAMM Fixer Licence is not just something acquired by being “Rubber Stamped” for attending an Assessment Day at a BRAMM Test Centre. A Burial Authority registered with BRAMM needs to be 100% confident that any memorial mason fixing memorials in their cemeteries are doing so in a safe, proper and competent manner. As we live in a “Sue’em” society these days this is one of the major strengths of BRAMM to a Burial Authority.

It follows therefore that a BRAMM Fixer Licence is not to be taken lightly. It is a recognised trade licence, which, at the very least, proves a fixer has demonstrated competence in safely fixing a memorial to the NAMM CoWP together with a sound awareness and understanding of different memorial fixing skills, requirements and job knowledge. It must, therefore, be earned by proving genuine practical competence underpinned with real job knowledge, otherwise the whole exercise would be meaningless.